

PATRIOT

439th Airmn Wing • MacDwair Air Force Base

March 2004 • Vol. 21, No. 3

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MOVING ON - Col. Charles A. Brown Jr., 439th Maintenance Group commander, former B-52 pilot and a 36-year Air Force veteran, will retire from service in March. See articles on Pages 2 and 4.



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.

Veteran leader says goodbye to base

I am honored to have this forum to say a formal goodbye to all the tremendous people here at Westover ARB. I can't say enough about all the people that make this such a great base - both now and over my years stationed here. One thing that stands out above all other is that Westover has always performed to the highest standards.

Commentary

During my time here, three periods stand out.

First are the Strategic Air Command days of the 99th

Bomb Wing. During this time Westover was an integral part of our nuclear deterrent as well as our efforts in Southeast Asia. Both missions were admirably handled with our Southeast Asia efforts proving our comparative abilities. We were a "Cadre" unit, which meant that we were considered a top caliber unit and led more than our share of missions.

The second period was in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm where we served as a staging base for all C-5 flights flying to the AOR and after our victory, Westover was the first base that loaded C-5s that landed in the CONUS. Our folks did a superb job with a tremendous workload and I think it's important to realize that in 1990/1991 we only had the C-5 for four years. As our victorious troops passed through Westover we gave them a welcome to remember.

The final high point is our just-completed efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom where we again served as a staging base for C-5 operations, handling more Galaxy operations than any other base in the world. During one major snowstorm we launched aircraft when no other East Coast base could.

As I look at these high points one thing is clear, Westover people, working as a team, are a proven Air Force leader. All these achievements required a TEAM effort of everybody, operations, maintenance, support, medical, wing, and our newest team members, Griffin Services and Maytag Corporation. We're unbeatable when we work together!

How does Westover stay in the lead? This is the challenge for the future. Don't abandon the teamwork that got us here and strive for improvement. Don't rest on past successes but rather build on them. We're the best now and continued self-improvement will keep us there.

In closing, I can't resist the opportunity to make a comparison between Westover and the Super Bowl champions, our New England Patriots. Like the Patriots we don't concentrate on sending a few people to the Pro Bowl BUT we send everybody to the Super Bowl.

Goodbye and May God bless you as he has Westover ARB.



Col. Charles A. Brown Jr.

Briefs

Dining hall remains open daily for morning meals

The dining hall staff remains activated and will continue to serve breakfast every morning and on both UTAs from 5-8 a.m.

Cost of breakfast is \$1.70 for those on non-UTA status (those receiving per diem). The cost of box lunches is \$3.30 for those on non-UTA status.

Box lunches are available with 24-hour notice. The dining hall's office hours are from 5 a.m.-2 p.m. daily. For additional information and box lunch ordering, call the dining hall at Exts.2026 or 3523.

The Westover Consolidated Club will continue to serve lunch and dinner on both UTAs.

Security forces to compete for top unit

The 439th Security Forces Squadron is one of two nominees for the top security unit in Air Force Reserve Command.

Westover's security forces will soon compete with the 445th SFS at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

A security forces assessment team from Lackland AFB, Texas, will visit Westover in April to evaluate the squadron.

(by staff and AFRC News Service)

Honor Guard offers Air Force course in March

The Patriot Wing Honor Guard is offering an Air Force Basic Protocol, Honors and Ceremonies Course from March 15-19.

The course will be taught at the honor guard building in Bldg. 3284 on Eagle Drive by the Fairview Gate.

For more information, call MSgt. Thomas Roe at Ext. 3342.

Correction

A caption in the February *Patriot* with a photo of a Patriot Wing honor guard member included an incorrect first name.

The correct name was that of SrA. Andrew J. Hackett, 439th Logistics Readiness Squadron, who marched with a joint-service color guard at a December New England Patriots football game.

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Twenty-five 58th aerial porters deploy for year

Article and photo

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A crowd that outnumbered 25 58th Aerial Port Squadron members heading overseas provided an emotional send-off Feb. 11 from the base passenger terminal that kicked off a yearlong deployment.

The aerial porters were on their way to a 90-day deployment to Al-Udeid Air Base, Qatar, before returning to the United States, where they will be assigned to the aerial port operation at Dover AFB, Del.

Maj. James B. White was the officer in charge of the deployment, but will work in a different area at Al-Udeid, scheduling C-130 airlift operations, while the remaining squadron members will handle traditional aerial port operations.

"They'll be doing passenger processing, and cargo loading and unloading, and I understand there are about 120 aerial porters there and a 24-hour operation," Major White said. "The teams will work 12-hour shifts. We have a very experienced team going and quite a few new enlisted people coming along as well, so they're very enthusiastic about going too."

The mix of senior aerial porters included those who have been assigned to deployments at Al-Udeid before, Major White said. SMSgt. Shirley A. Warbeck, who lives in Coventry, Conn., was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the deployment, and one of those returning to Al-Udeid.

"They're excited to go – anxious – a little scared. There are big-time emotions right now," she said. "But I think once we get on the airplane, we'll calm down."

TSgt. Marvin Dotson, an air transportation craftsman from Chicopee, spent time with his family and friends at Westover while he maintained an upbeat attitude about the deployment.

"I'm always positive; I consider myself a morale booster," Sergeant Dotson said. "I just go with the flow. This is my second time in three years that I have been activated."

A1C Mark W. Jordan hugged his girlfriend, Tricia Gaul, who is from Pembroke, Mass. She said she would keep busy while Airman Jordan is gone to make the time go faster.

They planned their communication wouldn't just be e-mails
see 58th continued on Page 6



ONE MORE HUG - TSgt. Michael E. Lankarge hugs his children, Christina and Andrew, on Feb. 11 before he prepares to deploy for a year. Families and friends crowded into the passenger terminal to say goodbye to 25 58th APS members.

Maintainers cap two busy years with deactivations

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe
and SrA. Tom Ouellette

Hundreds of Patriot Wing reservists demobilized in February, wrapping up a two-year stint of activations, deployments and a record-breaking C-5 surge last year.

Most of the reservists were members of the 439th Maintenance Group (MXG).

Col. Charles Brown, 439th MXG commander, praised the effort of the maintenance crews.

"They achieved everything we asked of them and more," he said. "They had the highest reliability departure rate than any C-5 base in the world, using fewer people."

Maj. Mark F. Wilson, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (AMXS) commander, said many of the maintainers looked forward to the deactivation.

"Two years is a long time," he said.

"A lot of sacrifices were made in those two years, but the folks have stepped up. They were exceptional. We've met and exceeded standards."



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

SIGNATURE HERE - TSgt. David E. Neiford, 439th Maintenance Squadron, fills out his demobilization paperwork as TSgt. Sandra C. Mundt, 439th Mission Support Squadron, assists.

The maintenance group, consisting of AMXS, MXS, and the former logistics support squadron, were first activated on Oct. 1, 2001, less than a month after the 9/11 attacks. The maintainers served for a year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, including supporting the war in Afghanistan.

They answered the call to duty again when Westover became a staging base for the air bridge to the Middle East during the Iraqi Freedom build-up and subsequent return of troops.

At around this same time, the new 439th Maintenance Operations Squadron stood up.

During several points in the surge, the maintainers took care of the largest assembled fleet of C-5s in the world. On one day, as many as 27 were arranged on

see MXG continued on Page 11

After 34 years, Colonel Brown bids adieu to Westover

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Col. Charles Brown, who came to Westover as a first lieutenant B-52 co-pilot and became an icon of our values, will retire in March as 439th Maintenance Group commander.

He and his wife, Martha, will move to Tucson, Ariz., where he will serve as civilian deputy group commander at the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center, more commonly known as the "Boneyard," at Davis-Monthan AFB.

Colonel Brown's departure will sever a link of the Patriot Wing to the tumultuous days when Westover airmen fought and some fell in the skies over North Vietnam. He flew as a co-pilot with Westover's 99th Bombardment Wing B-52 aircrews who between 1970 and 1972 deployed four times to Southeast Asia to fly air combat missions in Operations Arc Light, Bullet Shot, Linebacker and Linebacker II.

No American airmen ever faced a more concentrated air defense than the 99th BW during the Vietnam War raids over Hanoi. Six days before Christmas, 1972, Colonel Brown, flying out of Utapao, Thailand, ejected over Hanoi from a B-52D engulfed in flames by two North Vietnamese surface-to-air missiles. Two of the six-man crew did not survive.

The shootdown and subsequent 101 days in the "Hanoi Hilton" was a transformational experience for Colonel Brown. It also changed the way the world looks at him.

Of about 600 prisoners of war who came home in 1973, Colonel Brown is one of only two still in uniform. The other is Maj. Gen. Edward J. Mechenbier, who is mobilization assistant to the commander of Air Force Material Command headquarters at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. General Mechenbier plans to retire in June.

Colonel Brown can speak from the heart of stoicism and loyalty to teammates and country.

Over the years he has stood before countless civic groups and appeared before TV cameras on anniversary dates. His red and blue striped POW pajama uniform hangs in a Chicopee school.

In some ways, the role of Vietnam War hero is almost unfair, overshadowing a distinguished career as a maintenance officer. He has headed the 439th Maintenance Group since 1999, leading the maintainers through extended activations and wartime surges.

When Colonel Brown reflects on the years since he first came to the SAC base of Westover AFB in 1970, he rates Vietnam as the



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

ON THE RAMP - Col. Charles A. Brown Jr., 439th Maintenance Group commander, talks with maintenance members on the flight line. They are MSgt. James Ferry (left), and TSgt. John A. Evelyn Jr. Colonel Brown has been at Westover since 1970, when he flew B-52 Stratofortresses with the 99th Bomb Wing, the host unit at Westover, when it was a Strategic Air Command (SAC) base.

first of three milestones, followed by Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operations Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. Tying all the decades together is a deep appreciation for the Westover team.

"I've been associated with outstanding individuals who have turned in superb performance as indicated by three really big events," the colonel said.

"First was Vietnam and Southeast Asia where we were cadre. We flew the B-52D, the most advanced model. All the aircrews, maintenance, bomb loaders, everyone were considered the most experienced. As such we led the most critical missions.

"Then there was Desert Shield/Desert Storm at a time when the wing had transitioned to the C-5 only four years earlier. We became the most critical C-5 staging base. Again the whole base came together from operations to maintenance to the support group.

"The third high point was our contribution to Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom. During this period we turned more C-5s than any other base in the world. At some points we had 24 Galaxies at Westover, more than any base in the world," Colonel Brown said.

Colonel Brown was raised in Melrose, Mass., and commissioned in 1968 from the Boston University AFROTC program. He arrived at Westover right out of pilot training in February 1970 and in April went to Guam for Arc Light. During the Vietnam War he flew 189 combat missions.

In December, 1972, 10 B-52s with 61 crew members were shot down. The fight for survival continued on the ground.

"Among the worst parts was the day to day uncertainty. We worried about our fellow POWs. Some of the wounded just barely got out in time. We couldn't see them, but we could hear others in adjacent concrete cells, a heavy groan and when they stopped you knew the guy was dead. You'd see the bodies brought out," Colo-

see COLONEL continued on Page 5

Final words in Hanoi had ring of defiance

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Col. Charles A. Brown Jr. suffered a burned neck and injured knee when he punched out of a burning B-52D at 39,000 feet. He was bound, paraded through downtown Hanoi, struck and knocked to his injured knee.

Colonel Brown survived 101 days in a rat infested cell on a diet of cabbage and water. He was interrogated with a loaded .38 put at his head. He wore a red and blue striped pajama uniform.

But they did not break his spirit. That was the message he sent to the world when he met Walter Cronkite, dean of news broadcasters, upon his release at Gia Lam Airport minutes before boarding a C-141.

Colonel Brown's first public words to the world had the flippant ring of a prisoner who had not been broken by his captors.

"How are the Bruins doing?" the Westover POW asked Mr. Cronkite.



photo by MSgt. Anne Ward

LOADING UP – SMSgt. Gerald A. Grasso, 58th Aerial Port Squadron, shops for his family during the case lot sale held in the Base Hangar.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

BUSY SHOPPERS – Purchases totaled \$42,000 by the end of the February A UTA.

Case lot sale in Base Hangar draws hundreds

by MSgt. Anne Ward

A case lot sale in the Base Hangar rang up \$42,000 in purchases in just two days in February.

Hundreds of reservists, retirees, and families filed in and out of the building over the course of the A UTA weekend. They

bought food, household cleaners, bathroom items, and many other items - at drastically reduced prices.

Shoppers were very satisfied with what they found.

"I wish they would do this monthly," said Army SSgt. Garret Rogers. "I'm finding everything we wanted and then some."

TSgt. Tyler Bergemann, 439th CES, liked the convenience of the sale. "I think this is pretty cool. I can save some money. I hope they do it more."

Because of the sale's success at Westover, the commissary staff plans just that. Plans are being made for the sale to return in July.

Sudden loss of Springfield aerial porter stuns 42nd APS

by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Members of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron grieved with the family of SSgt. Frank P. Lalli during his funeral on Jan. 27.

Sergeant Lalli, 33, died on Jan. 23 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. More than 25 42nd members attended the funeral service.

Sergeant Lalli had been an air cargo specialist with the 42nd since March 1999. He left fond memories with his co-work-

ers.

"Frank did a great job for the port and the wing," said SMSgt. Michael R. Brunetti, 42nd APS first sergeant. "He was a pleasant and polite man and passed on much too young."

Sergeant Lalli lived in Springfield. He graduated from Cathedral High



Sergeant Lalli

School and was a communicant of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

"Sergeant Lalli was a wonderful guy - one in a million - and we were very fortunate to work with him," said SMSgt. Anita Mancini, his supervisor. "He was an outstanding worker, and person, and always willing to do anything for anyone. He will be truly missed."

Members of the Patriot Wing Honor Guard rendered military honors. Burial was at St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

COLONEL continued from Page 4

nel Brown said.

"An experience like that alters your life. I think I don't take things for granted anymore. Especially loved ones. I let people know how much I appreciate them and what they do," Colonel Brown said.

Following a four-month recovery period after his release, he returned to civilian life. He later served a stint in the Rhode Island Air National Guard before joining Westover's 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron as a C-123 pilot in 1977.

He was a C-130 pilot in 1987 when Westover transitioned to the Galaxy and he

became a maintenance officer.

As maintenance group commander, the trappings of a long career were on display in Colonel Brown's office. In one corner lay a 1960s-style black gym bag flattened down by age. The North Vietnamese gave it to him to carry his worldly possessions out of Hanoi. On a wall was another gift, a plaque designating him as an "Official Knuckle Buster" from the maintainers of the 439th EMS.

Nearby was a simple framed picture including MSgt. Charles Poole, the tailgunner who didn't make it out of the B-52. Another

picture was taken as recently as December 2003. Colonel Brown is standing at the very center of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. The first panel on the left is marked "1972". Looking at the picture, Colonel Brown could make a circle with his finger and tell a visitor, "this is where the Westover names are."

There are about 10 Westover names in the circle made by his finger. "It was only in the last couple years I was able to look at the Wall. Previously I could not bring myself to do it. My crew did, so I figured I could do it," Colonel Brown said.

Patriot Wing maintainers help remodel mortuary vehicle

by A1C Brian Stives, 436th AW
Public Affairs, and 439th AW staff

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AFPN) - Deployed airmen from Westover's 439th Maintenance Squadron were among those who assisted with the remodel of a mortuary transport vehicle in January.

Members of the 436th Equipment Main-

"We would find pieces of metal that would normally be considered scraps and they would actually be useful for other things on the truck."

-- TSgt. Thomas DiCuirci, 436th EMS

tenance Squadron's fabrication flight here finished remodeling a mortuary transfer vehicle Jan. 16, raising its capacity from two transfer cases to six.

When servicemembers die on foreign soil their remains are transported to the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs here where workers prepare them for their final resting place.

Mortuary officials requested bids from local businesses to remodel the vehicle. When the bids came in, TSgt. Thomas DiCuirci, of the 436th EMS metals technology shop, said his section could complete it for much less than the local bids.

When the project began, Sergeant DiCuirci knew what the end product needed to be and called on the specialists in his shop and airmen from the 436th and

512th airlift wings here, plus workers from the 439th Maintenance Squadron at Westover, to come up with an initial plan.

"We would find pieces of metal that would normally be considered scraps and they would actually be useful for other things on the truck," Sergeant DiCuirci said. "Some of the items on the truck that are unique are the stops on the rollers, the locks at the end of the rollers, rails to help guide the transfer case onto the rollers and even the bars to hold the doors when the wind blows."

Many times, airmen from fabrication flights do not get to see how their work affects the war mission; however, news reports of servicemembers dying meant their work was important.

With this motivating them, they completed the project in only six weeks.

Chiefs council offers online store, enlisted career information

The Westover Chiefs Council is providing a new online store offering embroidered 439th Airlift Wing emblems on jackets, hats and T-shirts. More items are expected to be added in the coming months.

Proceeds go to the council, which in turn provides funding for Westover airmen's scholarships and other esprit de corps items. For more information on the online store, contact any chief.

The council has also coordinated a new Westover Internet site. Called "Fostering Military Careers," the site is

for all 439th people to view with primary emphasis on the enlisted force.

"We want our enlisted force to have a place on the web that focuses specifically on how to help others and themselves with their military careers," said CMSgt. John M. Budenas, 439th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron first sergeant.

The chiefs council developed the site as one of their goals for 2003. The site is accessible by going to http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw/fostering_careers



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and phone calls.

"I'll write him every day," Gaul said.

The atmosphere inside the terminal was cheerful and talkative among the deployers and their families, but when the blue Air Force bus pulled up to the building, everyone knew the moment had come to say goodbye.

Conversations got quieter as everyone filed outside. Long hugs replaced some talking while tears flowed.

The aerial porters shook hands with the 58th APS commander, Lt. Col. Peter A. DeTone, as they boarded the bus for Bradley International Airport in Connecticut.

"It's a very strong group - and more than 90 percent of our senior airmen (in the squadron) and below are on this tour," Colonel DeTone said. "There's a lot of enthusiasm along with a lot of experience. And it's just a winning combination. They're all looking forward to going, and we're all looking forward to having them coming back."

MSgt. Derek A. Ouimette, 58th APS air reserve technician, organized the send-off at the passenger terminal.

Amid everything else going on, Sergeant Ouimette and TSgt. Marian D. Therrien took time to hand out Valentine's Day cards to the deployers just before they departed for their long journey to Southwest Asia.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A1C Mark W. Jordan hugs his girlfriend, Tricia Gaul, in the passenger terminal on Feb. 11. Airman Jordan was among 25 58th APS members who headed out on a year-long deployment beginning at Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar.

Westover reservists buck AFRC hearing loss trend

Refresher training, teaming up of 439th AMDS with bioenvironmental keeps program strong

Article and photo
by MSgt. Anne Ward

Though it is a trend across its parent command, Patriot Wing reservists ears are in good shape, according to a Westover hearing program official.

"Although General Batbie's letter stresses a hearing loss problem across the command, that scenario does not hold true at Westover," said Marian G. Mathieu, 439th Mission Support Group bioenvironmental engineering services chief.

Defense Occupational and Environmental Health Readiness System data identified an alarming trend in 2003 of higher than normal rates of hearing loss for Air Force reservists, compared to their active duty counterparts, according to Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., Air Force Reserve Command vice commander.

"It's quite the opposite; we have a very aggressive and successful hearing conservation training program based on our statistics."

The higher rates of hearing loss were attributed to lack of use or

"Credit needs to be given to the people working at Westover – it's their hearing (to safeguard) and it's evident they recognize just how important and precious it is."

-- Marian G. Mathieu, 439th MSG bioenvironmental engineering services chief

misuse of personal protective equipment by members exposed to hazardous noise through occupational exposure on the job. General Batbie urged reservists to continue encouraging and enforcing wear of hearing protection when working in hazardous environments, both on and off duty and during recreational activities, helping keep the work force protected, healthy and ready to fight.

The Westover program monitors 1,276 personnel from 54 shops and only two members were found to have permanent threshold shift changes. The program is two-fold and jointly managed with bioenvironmental providing training and hearing protection fittings. The 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron monitors individuals through audiometric exams.

"The idea of the program is prevention through education and consistent use of personal protective equipment," said Mrs. Mathieu. "Noise induced hearing loss is a typical result of over exposure to hazardous noise while at work, such as aircraft maintenance or the use of power tools or generators."

Initial training is provided for all base personnel who work around hazardous noise. Annual refresher training is performed within each unit. Hazardous noise is described as anything rated greater than 85 decibels, such as a lawn mower, chainsaw, vacuum cleaner or loud stereo. Jet engines rate at noise levels of 120 dBs plus.

"Although people working on base are good at using protective equipment, they sometimes forget to wear it at home," said William Archanbeau, industrial hygienist. "A good rule of thumb: if you have to speak loudly at arms length (one foot), or if you have to shout at three feet, more than likely it's a hazardous noise environment."

"Credit needs to be given to the people working at Westover – it's their hearing (to safeguard) and it's evident they recognize just how important and precious it is," she said. "For those of us working the program, what better way to know our successes than helping people to someday hear their grandchildren talk?"

For more information on the hearing program, call the bioenvironmental staff at Exts. 2663 or 2918, or MSgt. Lisa Laudenslager at the 439th AMDS at Ext. 3018.



PROPER PROTECTION - SrA. Chris Raymond, 439th Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance sheet metal mechanic, wears hearing protection as he drills holes into a support fairing for the wing of a C-5. The shop uses two types of hearing protection: foam inserts or head sets, and at times, both, depending on job requirements.

Civil Air Patrol aircraft to get new eyes in the skies

Civil Air Patrol aircraft in the Northeast Region will soon use a hyperspectral imaging system for use in search and rescue, counterdrug and homeland security missions, said Col. Richard Greenhut, Commander of the Northeast Region.

CAP has signed a \$4.2 million contract with Innovative Technical Solutions for 15 of the imaging systems. The units

will be installed on CAP aircraft at strategic locations.

The Northeast Region Staff of CAP meets at Westover on the second Saturday of each month at 281A Starlifter Avenue. The building is also used by the local CAP Westover Composite Squadron which meets Tuesday evenings.

Reshaping of AF presents opportunity for AFRC

by AFRC News Service
and Gordon Newell

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. —

The Air Force is opening doors and modifying programs to give people leaving active duty an opportunity to continue their military careers in the Air Force Reserve.

As the active force tries to reduce manning by about 16,600, the Air Force Reserve is seeking to hire many of those experienced airmen and give them a more flexible way to have a career in the military.

"The Air Force Reserve Command has put all of its In Service Recruiters at military personnel flights across the globe on heightened alert to entice as many active-duty members as possible," said CMSgt. Ronald Tyson, Westover's senior recruiter.

Westover's only ISR, TSgt. Richard Roneree, is working closely with active duty people at Hanscom AFB in Bedford, Mass., to expound on Reserve opportunities, Chief Tyson said.

"We expect a second wave of eligible folks who leave active duty and settle in the New England area," the chief said. "This is where our reservists can help recruiters. If they run into these prior service people, tell them about the reserve, refer them to a recruiter," the chief said.

Current Air Force manning numbers are beyond the authorized end-strength of 359,300 airmen on active duty. The new

Force Shaping Program has scheduled active-duty numbers to drop by 3,900 officers and 12,700 enlisted airmen by Sept. 15.

"The Force Shaping Program initiative that will have the greatest impact on us will be the expanded application of the Palace Chase program," said Lt. Col. Dirk Palmer at AFRC Recruiting Service.

"We expect that airmen in all Air Force specialty codes will be eligible to apply for Palace Chase with a minimum of two years in service."

Palace Chase is a program for airmen to transition off of active duty by trading their active-duty service commitments for

"We expect a second wave of eligible folks who leave active duty and settle in the New England area."

***-- CMSgt. Ronald Tyson,
Westover senior recruiter***

Air Force Reserve service commitments.

To qualify for this program, applicants must have a reenlistment code approved for continued military service and meet all the Palace Chase eligibility criteria under the Force Shaping rules.

Applications under these new rules are being accepted from Feb. 4 through March

12. To be approved, applicants must separate from active duty between May 15 and Sept. 15.

Though the normal application process is from seven to eight weeks, under the new rules, officials at AFPC expect to be able to notify applicants of their results within four to six weeks.

"With individual mobilization augmentee end-strength sitting at 94.8 percent, this is a great opportunity to fill some of our current vacancies," said Lt. Col. Nancy C. Robinson, director of assignments at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

Individual mobilization augmentees are reservists assigned part time to active-duty units, backfilling or deploying when required. Being an IMA is a flexible way to be in the Air Force, serving a minimum of 12 days throughout the year and two weeks of annual tour each year.

Just like traditional unit reservists, IMAs may be mobilized by the president during wartime or contingency operations.

However, IMAs are assigned directly to active-duty units instead of Reserve squadrons.

Find more information about getting into the Air Force Reserve, check it out on the Worldwide Web at: www.afreserve.com. Also, by dialing 1-800-257-1212, callers can be connected to a recruiter in their area between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

COUNCIL ISSUES - Westover Junior Enlisted Advisory Council members listen as Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, explains the new Air Force fitness standards. The council, represented by members from each squadron in the 439th Airlift Wing, addresses issues dealing with the wing's junior enlisted men and women. The council meets on Sunday mornings of each A UTA in the wing headquarters building. For more information, call Command CMSgt. Jeffrey B. Sherwin at Ext. 2214.



photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Store offers ski equipment, movie theater discounts

The Four Seasons store features a variety of name brand sports equipment including skis, ski boots, jackets and winter apparel.

The store is located in the fitness and sports center on Patriot Avenue.

Other services for the winter months include:

*Ski tuning services

*Snow board tune-ups (appointments required)

*Camper winterization specials (appointments required). The special includes draining the water lines, flushing holding tanks and filling all lines with antifreeze.

*Four Seasons has RV Storage Lots available for rent on base. The lot stor-

age is available for campers, boats and other camping equipment.

The lots are open for rent to active-duty military members, reservists, retirees and civilians working at Westover.

*Four Seasons has summer camping equipment and supplies and volleyball sets, lawn spreaders, and propane fuel.

*Six Flags New England Season Passes and discounted movie tickets are also available. These tickets can be used at any of the area Showcase Cinema Theaters.

For more information, call Ext. 2974.



photo by SrA. Michael Lanza

SKI STORE – Larry Helmer, Four Seasons manager, stocks ski boots at the store.

Services agency searches for teen-agers to attend theater camp

The Air Force Services Agency is on a “talent search” for teen-agers from 14-18 years old to attend the Missoula Performing Arts Theater Camp, July 26-30. Thirty-two teen-agers will have an all-expense-paid trip to attend the camp.

Set in the rustic outdoor camping area in Missoula, Mont., teens will enjoy one week of voice, dance, stage presence, acting seminars, and arts and crafts, waterfront activities and campfires.

Teens passionate about the performing arts are en-

couraged to apply by providing an audition tape and sending an application to:

HQ Air Force Services Agency
10100 Reunion Place, Suite 402
San Antonio, Texas 78216

The deadline for submissions is March 15. Additional copies of the application package are available at the fitness center and other services activities. For more information, contact Sharon Coprich at Ext. 2845.



MARINE MOMENT – Michael Casey, the son of Marine 2nd Lt. Michael J. Casey, takes part in the ribbon-cutting on Jan. 10 of the new Marines building at Westover that is named after his father. The \$10.2 million 2nd Lt. Michael J. Casey Marine Corps Reserve Training Center includes 55,000 square feet and houses various Marine Corps Reserve units. Lieutenant Casey was killed in action in Vietnam.

photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

Cooper's classes help ensure 439th AW stays fit

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is the second in a series that will help Patriot Wing members meet the new Air Force fitness standards which went into effect Jan. 1.

Maj. Patrick Ryan is the wing fitness program manager.

by Maj. Patrick Ryan

"Let me help."

Except perhaps for the words "I love you," this trio of words is the most cherished in the English language and a definite fixture with those of us that call Westover home.

The first week in January, 41 dedicated Westover reservists took time from their busy home and Air Force schedules to attend the Cooper Institute's Physical Fitness Specialist Certification class. The institute is recognized as the preeminent authority on fitness. Their certification is recognized by the Journal of the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, and other renowned agencies on health and fitness.

The brainchild of our 439th Services Squadron people, including in particular Westover Fitness Director Jim Kelly, this training was specifically sought to give every Westover reservist access to a certified professional to help them design a fitness regimen that fits their unique lives.

These 41 intrepid people (listed in the gray box below) have been given the tools necessary to help all of us make a lifestyle change toward a goal of fitness, nutrition, and health. They are

Cooper's Institute physical fitness specialists

439 OG	SMSgt. Constance Cullen	MSgt. Elaine Perreault
337 AS	Capt. Joseph Frietas	SMSgt. Fred Perret
439 AES	CMSgt. Catherine Skalecki	CMSgt. James Brady
OSS	MSgt. Robert Majewski	MSgt. Bert Quick
ALCF	SMSgt. Tracey Turner	MSgt. Lisa McCurdy
MSG	TSgt. Kim Babin	Marques Grothues
MSS	CMSgt. Tammy Vezina	TSgt. Nadine Joy
COMM	TSgt. Norman O'Brien	SrA. Robert Seitz
LRS	SMSgt. Nicole Remy	SSgt. Bruce Lamay
58 APS	TSgt. James Barness	TSgt. Michael Purcaro
CES	TSgt. Charles Torres	SSgt. Roberto Felix
SFS	SMSgt. John McIntyre	TSgt. Daniel Ernst
42 APS	MSgt. Dan Witt	TSgt. Merrill Pregeant
439 SVS	TSgt. Neal Normandin	SSgt. Jason Sandoval
MXG	Maj. Rodney Furr	
MXS	CMSgt. David Carbin	MSgt. Anthony Cohen
MOS	MSgt. Ken Huckins	
AMXS	TSgt. Glenn Cannon	TSgt. Todd Zuzula
AW	MSgt. Nelson Serrao	
ASTS	SMSgt. Michelle Dunfield	TSgt. Colleen Hitt
		SrA. Joseph Neidziela
AMDS	MSgt. Joseph Letourneau	TSgt. Darlene St. George



photo by TSgt. Don Talbot

BACK STRAIGHT - Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, demonstrates the proper technique for a push-up during the January Commander's Call held in the Base Hangar on the A UTA. Squadron representatives on base attended Cooper's Institute classes in January and have information available for ways reservists can meet the new Air Force fitness standards.

eager, willing, and ready to render any help these new tools they have been given can offer.

So seek them out. Pick their brains. Use this resource to help make fitness a part of your life at whatever level that you can.

Let me relate a story from the brief overview given by Cooper's Institute instructor Karen Hughes to the commanders and first sergeants during the last day of the class. It illustrates better than anything else the basic reasoning behind Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper's push to make fitness a new requirement.

Studies have shown that most Americans live their lives on a downward sloping curve – meaning that as they age their health begins a slow and steady decline. Cooper's studies have shown that low fitness has a direct correlation to that decline. The more fit an individual, the less chance of debilitating illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes, which directly equates to greater quality of life for a longer time.

In simple terms, retirement would be more sun and fun and less HMOs and stethoscopes. So instead of rounding off that curve, Cooper's advocates making it 90 degrees instead.

Live life to the fullest each and every day for your entire life...then drop off the cliff at the end – all because you live a fit healthy lifestyle.

"Let me help."

Three words that are the very foundation of what we hope to accomplish in getting someone from each base unit trained to the Cooper standard.

Please tap the knowledge, enthusiasm, and drive of these folks to your advantage. We think you'll be pleased with the results.



Patriot People



Kathleen M. Kies

photo by TSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Name: Kathleen M. Kies
Age: 52
Address: Easthampton, Mass.
Unit: Wing staff judge advocate's office
Position: Legal assistant
Favorite food: Pasta
Years at Westover: 15
Favorite sport: None
Favorite hobby: Sewing
Ideal vacation: Going to the beach in Maine
Best way to relax: Sewing, reading, going for a walk
Preferred entertainment: Dinner and a show
Favorite hero: All our soldiers who are serving our country
Favorite music: Country
Favorite movie: The Wizard of Oz
Favorite aircraft: UH-60 Blackhawk
Pet peeve: Loud music
What would I do if I won \$1 million: Pay off bills, and help my family out

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Patriot now periodically features civilian employees of the 439th Airlift Wing as well as reservists. Look for more civilians to appear in this section throughout the year.

Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:

SMSgt. Ronald E. Philbrick
 SMSgt. Kristine M. Seney
 SMSgt. Clifford M. Wittman

SSgt. Lisa E. Dewar
 SSgt. Andrews Frederick C. Jr.
 SSgt. Kenyatta L. Harris
 SSgt. Raymond F. Theriaque

MSgt. Ronald A. Aickelin
 MSgt. Paul J. Beauregard
 MSgt. Kenneth R. Belanger
 MSgt. Thomas F. Demers
 MSgt. Thomas G. Durkin Jr.
 MSgt. Scott A. Hoyt
 MSgt. Richard A. Martin
 MSgt. Charles E. Porter
 MSgt. Melissa Tavilla

SrA. Edward Eugene Bassett Jr.
 SrA. Mark R. Lis
 SrA. Hal N. Scholnick
 SrA. Thomas K. Youngraine

Thirty Year Certificates for Civil Service:

William T. Podworny
 Helen A. Smith

Forty Years:

Edward A. Sierzego

NCO Academy Graduate:

TSgt. Eileen E. Moloney-Cook

TSgt. Stephen R. Brooks
 TSgt. Robert E. Brown
 TSgt. Robert A. Corona
 TSgt. Robert J. Delano
 TSgt. Robert E. Doe
 TSgt. Thomas H. Krol
 TSgt. Steven R. Pelletier
 TSgt. Michael I. Walbridge
 TSgt. James M. Whelt
 SSgt. Patrick J. Burke

Awards and Decorations

Air Force Achievement Medal

TSgt. Daniel R. Boucher*
 TSgt. Dale A. Edwards
 SSgt. Paul Doyon
 SSgt. Michael W. Pope
 SSgt. Donald M. Tonge*
 SSgt. William M. Watson*

Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Nabil H. Raheb
 SMSgt. Paul N. Larochelle*
 MSgt. David Guertin
 MSgt. Edward R. Lorange**

MSgt. Frank VanLingen
 MSgt. David A. Wells
 TSgt. Daniel A. Cote
 TSgt. Edward A. Perriera
 SrA. Brandon H. Lemay

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. William J. Rolocut
 Capt. Robert N. Oliveri
 SMSgt. Marilyn A. Dube
 MSgt. David A. Perrault
 TSgt. Gary L. Matteson

*First oak leaf cluster

**Second oak leaf cluster

MXG continued from Page 3

Westover's aircraft parking areas.

Despite many challenges, like working 12-hour shifts and launching aircraft in the bitter cold, the maintenance group earned top honors for their outstanding performance, including the Verne Orr and the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness awards.

Major Wilson said Westover's gaining Air Force command took note of the effort as well. "Maintenance received praise for our performance all the way from headquar-

ters Air Mobility Command, including handling the four-month surge in 2003," the major said.

Of the more than 600 activated MXG troops, most have been deactivated. The few remaining activated troops will be deactivated upon completion of six-month extensions or reaching a total of 730 days of activated duty, whichever comes first.

SMSgt. Christopher Doyle, 439th MXS avionics flight chief and air reserve technician (ART), recently returned from duty at

Dover AFB, Del., where he and more than 290 Westover maintainers had helped support operations from September 2003 through January.

It won't be until later into the spring that the maintenance presence gets back on line here. Many of the workers, like Sergeant Doyle, are ARTs, who work the flight line nearly every day of the week.

The sergeant planned a vacation in February before returning to the flight line.

June 24 - Employer Appreciation Day

Employer Appreciation Day has been scheduled for June 24.

To have invitations sent to their bosses, reservists should fill out the application form below and return it to the Public Affairs office located in wing headquarters. A letter will then be sent from Col. Wade Farris, 439th AW commander, to each employer.

This year's Employer Appreciation

Day will get started at 9 a.m. at the Westover Club where employers will be treated to coffee and refreshments.

Employers will be bussed to the flight line at approximately 10:30 a.m. where they will board a unit C-5 for an orientation flight.

Reservists who wish to join their employers for lunch after the flight must pay in advance. The price will be

announced in a *Patriot* edition later this spring.

Each reservist will be allowed to invite just one supervisor. Only those reservists assigned to the aircrew will be allowed to board the C-5 for the orientation flight.

Further information is available at the Public Affairs office in Bldg. 1850 or by calling (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's company name/address: _____

Lunch for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Lunch for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

PATRIOT

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

March UTA schedule
A UTA March 6-7
B UTA March 20-21



439th AW/PA
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE
100 Lloyd Street
East Wing, Suite 103
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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